

REMARKS

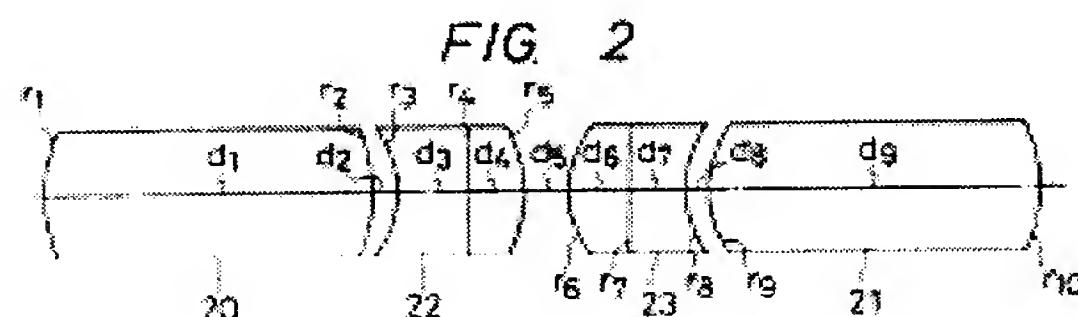
Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has reviewed the Examiner's statements regarding the specification and has amended it accordingly.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 remain in the application. The features of claim 3 have been added to independent claim 1. Additionally, the language of claim 1 has been amended to better clarify the configuration of the lens units within the half sets.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 4,693,568 to Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi). For the following reasons the Examiner's rejection is traversed.

Takahashi is directed to an image transmission optical system of an endoscope. The system includes two rod-like biconvex lenses, and two thick meniscus lenses which are arranged between the two rod-like biconvex lenses so that convex surfaces of the two thick meniscus lenses face each other. Fig. 2 of Takahashi is reproduced below.



Takahashi does not disclose all of the features of amended claim 1.

Specifically, claim 1 requires two half sets, each having an inner end positive power lens, wherein the inner end lens on neighboring half sets are adjacent to one another. Additionally, in each half set, the outer end lens unit is of a plane-convex form and cemented to the middle lens unit which has a plane-concave form.

Referring to Fig. 2 of Takahashi, an inner end lens unit is cemented to the middle lens unit, not an outer end lens unit as required. Also, the outer end lens unit in Takahashi is bi-convex, not plane-convex as required. This results in a completely different design and effect than the claimed relay set.

The other cited references, U.S. 5,888,193 and U.S. 7,002,741, again both have a middle lens cemented to an inner end lens and not an outer end lens.

Because all of the features of amendment claim 1 are not disclosed by the prior art, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 4 depend directly from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 4 is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. SCH-16628.

Respectfully submitted,
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